

REC'D 8-12-96
F.B.

Monthly Progress Report No. 73

Submitted to: Mr. Frank Battaglia, Project Manager
USEPA Region I
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RCRA RECORDS CENTER
FACILITY Ciba Geigy Corp
I.D. NO. 210001194323
FILE LOC. R-5
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Toms River Site
Route 37 West
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Pursuant to: RCRA I-88-1088

Facility Site: Cranston, RI

Period Covered: July 1996 (June 29, 1996 - August 2, 1996) through
fifth Friday of the month.

Date Submitted: August 9, 1996

1.0 SUMMARY

This is the seventy third monthly progress report. There were four areas of significant activity this month:

- **Stabilization IRM** - The groundwater extraction wells 110 and 120 and the pretreatment system continued to operate during July with no problems. The Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) System still has not become operational. (see 3.0)
- **Sediment Removal IRM** - This report was completed and submitted to EPA at the end of the month. (see 4.3)
- **On-Site IRM** - Ciba completed the removal of an additional 70 cu yd. of potentially PCB contaminated soil from SWMU#5 in early July. (see 4.1 and 4.2)
- **Pawtuxet River CMS Report** - Ciba and its consultants continued work on the CMS report. It will be a "focused" report similar to the On-Site CMS, where only two alternatives will be considered for evaluation/selection. (see 4.4)



SEMS DocID 100016446

2.0 TASKS AND ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

All tasks and activities were still underway in July.

3.0 JEOPARDY TASKS

The SVE did not start-up continuously in July as planned. Several additional concerns have arisen, including: 1) traces of toluene and benzene have been found in the catalytic oxidizer exhaust indicating that combustion is not complete, 2) the volatile (toluene) load in the soil appears to be much lower than anticipated and may be insufficient for continuous operations, and 3) the dual phase vacuum system is unable to draw down the groundwater in the wells in SWMU #15. Ciba has installed positive displacement pumps in some of these wells with probes to control the levels. This provides the capacity to, not only control the level for vapor extraction but also separately withdraw groundwater for mass capture purposes. Currently, the plan is to operate the SVE as an IRM for up to one year, if necessary, and then shutdown. If there is no significant soil gas load, then the shutdown may be much sooner. Ciba does not anticipate operating the SVE, except possibly the groundwater extraction portion, as part of the On-Site or Pawtuxet River Corrective Actions.

4.0 OTHER TASKS UNDERWAY

4.1 SWMU#5

On July 8-10, 1996 Ciba completed the additional removal of 70 cu. yd of potentially PCB contaminated soil from SWMU#5. This removal was conducted as Phase 3 of the Soil IRM for the Warwick Property with USEPA, RIDEM, and local permit approvals. The approximately 20' x 30' area at the 2' to 4 1/2' depth was backfilled with clean soil and revegetated. Samples taken from the bottom of the small excavation and from the clean fill show no PCBs below detection (less than 0.1 PPM). The increased lifetime cancer risk (ILCR) on the property was reduced to 1×10^{-5} assuming 100% exposure to the backfill and the presence of the 1260 species only, which are both conservative assumptions.

4.2 ON-SITE REPORTS

The On-Site IRM and CMS reports were revised to include the results of the above excavation conducted on the Warwick Property. The ILCR in both the Production Area and the Warwick Property was reduced to the 10^{-5} range, based upon conservative assumptions. This minor remediation had no effect on the evaluation and selection of alternatives for the On-Site CMS.

4.3 SEDIMENT IRM

This report was completed and finally submitted at the end of the month. It concluded that, based upon the Ecological Risk Assessment results for the river, that site compounds had essentially been removed by the interim action and were not significant risk drivers in the sediment.

4.4 PAWTUXET RIVER CMS

The CMS report is almost complete. The final evaluation is between the No Action/Natural attenuation Alternative and the Mass Capture/Hydraulic Barrier alternative for remediation of the groundwater. The preliminary MPS submitted in May have been confirmed and, in the case of toluene, lowered. No further action would be required for sediment removal in the river. Groundwater monitoring and sediment sampling would continue for five years.

5.0 PROBLEM AREAS

There are no problems, which are not being resolved, in a timely manner.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF TASKS (next two months)

The following tasks will be started, on-going, or completed in August and September.

- Startup the SVE continuously (August)
- Submit the River CMS Report (August 16)
- Conduct additional groundwater sampling (September)
- Determine volatiles in SWMU#5 soil

7.0 CHANGES IN WORK PLAN

No changes to the Work Plan are proposed at this time; however, we have requested that the Toxicity Indicator Evaluations (TIES) in the Phase II River Study be eliminated based upon the results of the Aquatic Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment, submitted on March 29..

8.0 OTHER COMMENTS

On June 12, Ciba sent a letter to the Cranston POTW requesting that the groundwater from the two extraction wells be discharged without pretreatment because the organic and metals meet their limits. The City has disapproved this request and required us to continue the present pretreatment system.

Ciba- Monthly Report Distribution List

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